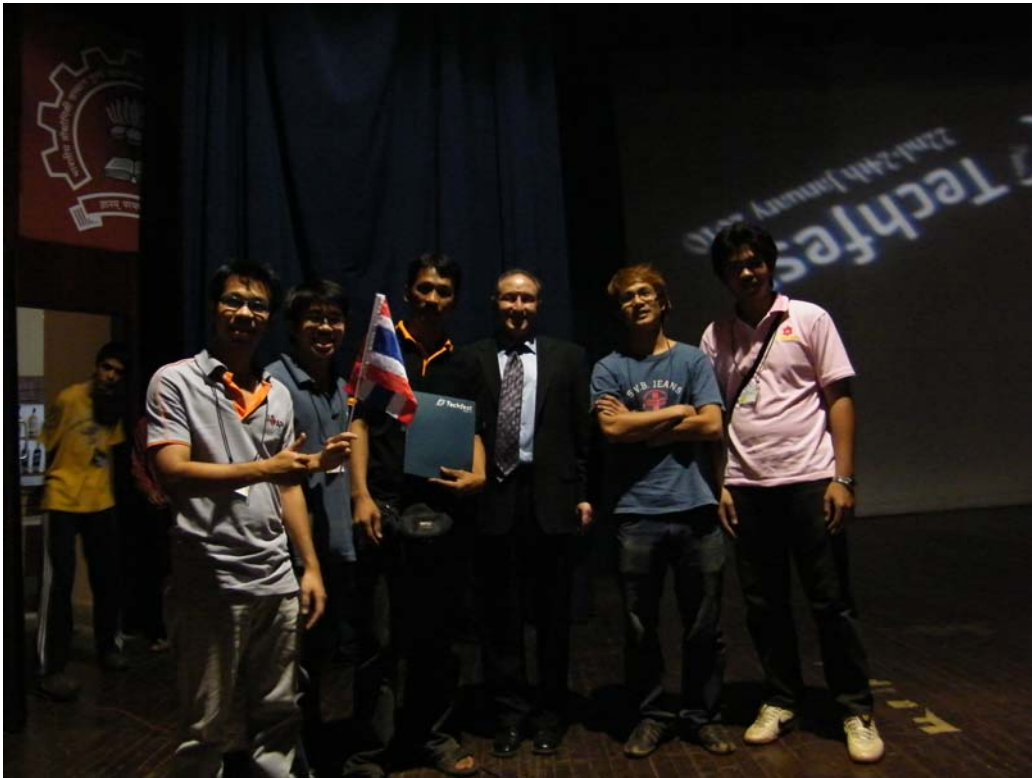


## Thai students win two prizes in World Robotics Competition



Two teams of university engineering students from Thailand won prestigious prizes at the World Challenge, A.N.T.Z. Robotics Competition held on 24 January 2010 in Mumbai, India. The team from King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok "(IRAP) STRI" won first place in Type 'A' category, while the team from Singburi Technical College won second place of the Type 'B' category.



The competition, organized by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, saw 15 teams from four different countries (Australia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand) participating. Six teams from Thailand earned passage in the final round, including the top three teams from the iNexus Thailand Robot Competition organized by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in December 2009.

The A.N.T.Z. competition was a demonstration of Swarm Robotics, a new approach to the coordination of fully autonomous multirobot systems. A.N.T.Z. introduces students to the highly exciting field which originated from the colony behaviour of ants. A.N.T.Z. challenges students to design "ants" which will search for sugar cubes and store them safely at their own little shelters. The sugar cubes were modelled as blocks of fixed, given dimensions, and the job of modelling the ants was left at the students' disposal.

The competition with two categories--Type A Category (6x6 search area) and Type B category (4 x 4 search area) had two robots searching for the objects which are randomly placed in the search area and needed to bring the objects to the assigned locations. The first prize winner is the team which completed the assignment with the highest score. The (IRAP) STRI team finished the assignment with the score of 479 out

of 500 within 21 seconds, faster than the second prize winner from Australia by more than one minute with the score below 400.

The Australian team won the second place in the Type A category. The team from India won the first prize of Type B category.



Highlights of the type A category competition can be found on YouTube at: [http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=antz+world&search\\_type=&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=antz+world&search_type=&aq=f)

The successful teams from Thailand were aided with a travel sponsorship following their victory at the iNexus Thailand Robot Competition held last year. KMUTNB won the best design prize, while the Singburi Technical College won the second prize at the competition. The event was organized and sponsored by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), in close collaboration with the Thai Robotics Society.

Dr. Nitin Afzulpurkar, Dean, School of Engineering and Technology at AIT, said AIT was proud of its intense involvement in technological advancement. "Sponsorship the competition and awarding cash prizes to the winners is a reflection of AIT's continuing long-term objective of being a very forefront of international engineering excellence," he said. AIT, founded in 1959, is one of the premier engineering educational institutes in Asia. It remains committed to fostering talents of Asian students and continues to offer a wide range of undergraduate and post-graduate opportunities for study.

